

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) An information browse method comprising:
 - ~~a first search condition information setting step of setting a first search condition, inputted~~ input by any one user among of a plurality of first users, for searching for information suited to ~~[[a]]~~ this first user, as first search condition information on this first user;
 - ~~a second search condition information setting step of setting a second search condition, inputted input by any one among the of a plurality of second users in a way that specifies a second a first user from among the first users, for searching information suited to this second first~~ user, as second search condition information input by the second user on this second first user;
 - ~~an information searching step of searching, from within browsing target information containing a plurality of information elements, for an information element with respect to a certain first user in accordance with information derived from the first search condition information on the certain first user set in said first search condition information setting step and searching, from within the browsing target information, for an information element with respect to the certain first user in accordance with information derived from the second search condition information on the certain first user set in said second search condition information setting step; and~~
 - ~~an information presenting step of presenting to the certain first user a piece of information corresponding to a searched result from the first search condition input by the first user and a piece of information corresponding to a searched result from the second search condition input by the second user with respect to the certain user in said information searching step.~~
2. (currently amended) ~~An~~ The information browse method according to claim 1, wherein said second search condition information contains setting user information indicating the second user who set the second search condition ~~setting step involves setting the information inputted in such a form that any one of the plurality of users specifies the second user to~~

establish a mapping to setting user information indicating the user who inputted the information as the second search condition information on the second user, and

said information presenting step involves presenting presents to a user pieces of information on the respective information elements searched with respect to this second user, and presenting a piece of information indicating a setting user set as one element of mapping by way of the second search condition information with respect the certain first user the setting user information of the second user to the respective information elements searched based on the second search condition information.

3. (currently amended) AnThe information browse method according to claim 1, further comprising:

a ~~second information searching step of searching~~, based on the second search condition information set by ~~the~~ a certain second user with respect to ~~second~~ a first user in said second search condition information setting step, for an information element suited to this ~~second~~ first user from the browsing target information, and checking whether ~~or not the thus~~ the searched information element is searched by the first search condition information set ~~in said first search condition information setting step with respect to~~ of the ~~second~~ first user; and

a ~~second information presenting step of presenting~~ to the certain second user a piece of information corresponding to a searched result and a checked result ~~with respect to the certain user in said second information searching step~~.

4. (currently amended) AnThe information browse method according to claim 3, wherein the first search condition information contains one or more pieces of information ~~consisting of~~ including a keyword and a confidential flag for indicating whether ~~or not~~ a permission of using this keyword is given to the second user, and

said ~~second information searching step~~ by the certain second user involves performing the check about the searched information element by use of only the keyword having such a relationship that the confidential flag contained in the first search condition information set ~~in said first search condition information setting step with respect to~~ by the second user indicates the permission of the first user.

5. (currently amended) AnThe information browse method according to claim 1, wherein said setting of the second search condition information ~~setting step~~ involves generating the second search condition information by analyzing natural language information ~~inputted~~ input

in such a way that any one of the plurality of second users specifies the ~~second~~ first user from among the first users.

6. (currently amended) An information browse method comprising:
 a ~~first search condition information setting step of making a server to set information inputted~~ input by a first user as a first search condition corresponding to a first user;
 a ~~second search condition information setting step of making said server to set~~ information by a second user as a second search condition corresponding to a ~~certain~~ the first user;

~~a step of receiving from said server a result of searching based on the first search condition and another result of searching based on the second search condition~~ conditions set corresponding to information derived from the first and second users in said first and second search condition information setting steps.

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) An information browse system comprising:
 a first search condition information storing unit of storing information, ~~inputted~~ input by any one of a plurality of first users, for searching for information suited to ~~at this~~ this first user, as first search condition information on this first user ;

a second search condition information storing unit of storing information, ~~inputted~~ input by any ~~second-one of the~~ plurality of second users in a way that specifies a ~~second~~ first user from among the first users, for searching information suited to this ~~second~~ first user, as second search condition information input by the second user on this ~~second~~ first user;

an information searching unit for searching, from within browsing target information containing a plurality of information elements, for an information element with respect to a certain first user in accordance with ~~information derived the first search condition information on the certain first user~~ stored in said first search condition information storing unit and for searching, from within the browsing target information, for an information element with respect to the certain first user in accordance with information derived the second search condition information on the certain first user stored in said second search condition information storing unit ~~for information retrieval and sharing; and~~

an information-presenting unit of presenting to the certain first user a piece of information corresponding to a searched result in accordance with the first search condition input by the first

user and a piece of information corresponding to a searched result from the second search condition input by the second user, with respect to the certain user by said information-searching unit.

9. (currently amended) An~~The~~ information browse method according to claim 6, wherein said setting of the second search condition contains setting user information indicating the second user who set the second search condition~~information-setting step involves setting the information inputted in such a form that any one of the plurality of users specifies the second user to establish a mapping to setting user information indicating the user who inputted the information as the second search condition information on the second user, and~~

said receiving of results of searching~~information-presenting step involves presenting to a user pieces of information on the respective information elements searched with respect to this second user, and presenting a piece of information indicating a setting user set as one element of mapping by way of the second search condition information with respect to~~the certain first user the setting user information of the second user~~to the respective information elements searched based on the second search condition information.~~

10. (currently amended) An~~The~~ information browse method according to ~~claim 9~~claim 6, further comprising:

~~a second information-searching step of searching, based on the second search condition information set by the certain second user with respect to second a first user in said second search condition information-setting step, for an information element suited to this second first user from the browsing target information, and checking whether or not the thus the searched information element is searched by the first search condition information set in said first search condition information-setting step with respect to of the second first user; and~~

~~a second information-presenting step of presenting to [[a]] the certain second user a piece of information corresponding to a searched result and a checked result with respect to the certain user in said second information-searching step.~~

11. (currently amended) An~~The~~ information browse method according to claim 10, wherein the first search condition ~~information contains one or more pieces of information consisting of including~~ a keyword and a confidential flag for indicating whether ~~or not~~ a permission of using this keyword is given to the second user, and

~~said second information-searching step by the certain second user involves performing the~~

check about the searched information element by use of only the keyword having such a relationship that the confidential flag contained in the first search condition information-set in-said first-search-condition-information-setting-step-with-respect-to-by the second user indicates the permission of the first user.

12. (currently amended) ~~An~~The information browse method according to claim 11~~claim 6~~, wherein said setting of the second search condition information-setting-step involves generating the second search condition information-by analyzing natural language information ~~inputted~~input in such a way that any one of the plurality of second users specifies the ~~second~~a first user from among the first users.

13-15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) ~~An~~The information browse method according to claim 3, ~~wherein a control unit determines~~further comprising determining a recommendation degree corresponding to a hit keyword count with respect to each of the searched information elements searched using the first search condition and the second search condition.

17. (currently amended) ~~An~~The information browse method according to claim 16, wherein ~~[[a]]~~the recommendation degree is derived using data from a care-for-others information table and/or a favorite information table.

18. (currently amended) ~~An~~The information browse method according to claim 17, wherein a program having a larger hit keyword count in the care-for-others information table takes a larger recommendation degree value.

19. (currently amended) ~~An~~The information browse method according to claim 18, wherein information displayed in a program guide are sorted in a format corresponding to the recommendation degree of each item.

20. (currently amended) ~~An~~The information browse method according to claim 19~~claim 17~~, wherein said control-unit~~determining of the recommendation degree comprising:~~
~~-receives~~receiving electronic mail communications addressed to a logged-in user;
~~said control unit reads all~~reading keywords entered into the favorite information table

related to the logged-in user, and further ~~reads all~~reading keywords entered into the care-for-others information table related to the logged-in user;

~~said control unit searches~~searching the electronic mail communications for the keywords set in the favorite information table and in the care-for-others information table; and

~~said control unit executes the process of~~ computing the recommendation degree of each ~~of the electronic mail communications wherein~~communication, where the electronic mail communications are displayed according to a format corresponding to the recommendation degree for each itemelectronic mail communication.